

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:
a network link adapter, wherein the network link adapter is configurable to detect when a first device transmits data targeting a second device and, instead of providing the data to the second device, to write the data targeting the second device to an address of a memory; and
a monitoring unit coupled to the network link adapter, the monitoring unit is configurable to detect when the data is being written or has been written to the address of the memory and to forward the data to the second device.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a first interface coupled between the first device and the network link adapter, the first interface allows simultaneous bi-directional communication between the first device and the network link adapter.
3. The system of claim 2 further comprising a second interface coupled between the second device and the network link adapter, the second interface allows communication in one direction at a time between the second device and the network link adapter.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the monitoring unit comprises an address decoder that detects when the network link adapter writes the data to the address of the memory.
5. The system of claim 3 wherein the network link adapter comprises mode logic, the mode logic receives a user-controller mode signal whereby the network link adapter is configurable to operate in a first mode and a second mode.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein the network link adapter, when configured in the first mode, receives the data from the first device via the first interface and forwards the data to the second device via the second interface.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein the network link adapter, when configured in the second mode, detects when the first device transmits the data targeting the second device and writes the data to the address of the memory.
8. The system of claim 3 wherein the second device processes the data for the first device and returns processed data to the first device via the second interface.
9. The system of claim 3 wherein the second device receives the data from the monitoring unit and outputs processed data to the network link adapter via the second interface simultaneously.
10. A method, comprising:
 - configuring a network link adapter to write to an address of a memory when data received from a first device is intended for a second device;
 - observing data traffic between the network link adapter and the memory;
 - and
 - forwarding the data to the second device when the network link adapter writes the data to the address.
11. The method of claim 10 further comprising simultaneously processing the data and outputting processed data by the second device.
12. The method of claim 11 further comprising transmitting the data between the first device and the network link adapter via a full duplex connection.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising transmitting the processed data from the second device to the network link adapter via a half duplex connection.
14. A system, comprising:
a network link adapter coupled to a first device via a first interface and coupled to a second device via a second interface;
a memory coupled to the network link adapter;
means for configuring the network link adapter to write data to a predetermined memory address when the data is intended for the second device;
means for monitoring data traffic coupled between the memory, the network link adapter, and the second device,
wherein the means for monitoring data traffic is operable to forward data to the second device when the network link adapter writes the data to the predetermined address of the memory.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first device is operable to simultaneously transmit data to and receive data from the network link adapter.
16. The system of claim 14 wherein the second device is operable to simultaneously transmit data to the network link adapter and receive data from the means for monitoring data traffic.
17. An image rendering system, comprising:
a first device operable to couple to and communicate with one or more remote computer systems;
a second device operable to process one or more sets of image data;
a network link adapter coupled to the first device via a first interface and the second device via a second interface, wherein the network link adapter directs image data received from the first device and intended for the second device to a memory interface; and

a monitoring unit coupled to the memory interface, wherein the monitoring unit detects when image data directed to the memory interface is intended for the second device and sends the image data to the second device without the use of the second interface.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the second device changes the image data and outputs new image data to one of the remote computer system via the network interface, the network link adapter and the first device.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the second device receives the image data from the monitoring unit and outputs new image data to the second interface simultaneously.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the second interface is a half duplex connection.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the first interface comprises a full duplex interface.

22. The system of claim 17 wherein the image data is written to a predetermined address of a memory coupled to the memory interface.

23. The system of claim 17 wherein the image data is intercepted and forwarded to the second device while being written to a predetermined address of a memory coupled to the memory interface.